

REMARKS

This communication is a full and timely response to the final Office Action dated August 12, 2005 (Paper No./Mail Date 20050808). Claims 8-19 are pending where claims 8 and 13 are independent.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 8-19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over *Uchizaki et al.*—U.S. Patent No. 6,646,975 in view of JP-08055357 (*JP '357*). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Uchizaki is not prior art. The instant invention has an August 19, 2003 filing date and the benefit of two foreign priority documents dated March 25, 1999 and March 3, 1999. In contrast, *Uchizaki* has a June 25, 1999 U.S. filing date. Because the instant application has a foreign priority date that antedates the U.S. filing date of *Uchizaki*, Applicant respectfully submits that *Uchizaki* is not prior art.

Because the Office Action acknowledged that taken individually neither *Uchizaki* nor *JP '357* disclose, teach, or suggest every element recited in the claims. Therefore, *JP '357* fails to remedy the deficiencies raised by the disqualification of *Uchizaki*, and a *prima facie* case for obviousness has not been established. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of claims 8-19 under 35 U.S.C. §103 be withdrawn, and these claims allowed.

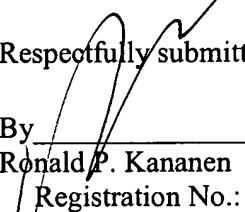
Conclusion

Based on at least the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant submits that claims 8-19 are allowable, and this application is in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicant requests a favorable examination and consideration of the instant application. In the event the instant application can be placed in even better form, Applicant requests that the undersigned attorney be contacted at the number listed below.

Applicant believes no fee is due with this request. However, if a fee is due, please charge our Deposit Account No. 18-0013, under Order No. SON-1748/CON from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

Dated: November 14, 2005

Respectfully submitted,

By 

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